

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for imaging checks, comprising:  
an image capture host coupled to a sorter  
5 operable to sort a plurality of checks, to retrieve data  
from the checks and to record digital images of the checks,  
the image capture host operable to obtain the digital  
images of the checks recorded by the sorter; and  
a database external to the sorter and coupled to  
10 the image capture host, the database operable to store the  
digital images of the checks obtained by the image capture  
host.
2. The system of Claim 1, further comprising:  
15 a processing system coupled to the sorter and the  
image capture host and operable to process each check based  
on the data retrieved from the check by the sorter in order  
to generate processing data for the check; and  
the image capture host further operable to obtain  
20 the processing data generated for each check by the  
processing system.
3. The system of Claim 2, the image capture host  
further operable to generate an image record for storage in  
25 the database, the image record comprising at least a  
portion of the processing data for a specified check and  
the digital image of the specified check.

4. The system of Claim 2, the processing system further operable to store previous pass information for each check for which processing data was previously generated.

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5. The system of Claim 4, the image capture host further operable to determine whether processing data was previously generated for a specified check and, if processing data was previously generated for the specified  
10 check, to obtain at least a portion of the previous pass information for the specified check from the processing system.

6. The system of Claim 5, the image capture host  
15 further operable to generate an image record for storage in the database, the image record comprising at least a portion of the processing data for the specified check, the digital image of the specified check and, if processing data was previously generated for the specified check, at  
20 least a portion of the previous pass information for the specified check.

7. The system of Claim 1, the sorter comprising a digital camera, the digital camera coupled to the image  
25 capture host and operable to record the digital images of the checks and to transmit the digital images of the checks to the image capture host.

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8. The system of Claim 7, the digital camera further operable to transmit the digital images of the checks to the image capture host using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP).

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9. A method for imaging checks, comprising:  
retrieving data from a plurality of checks at a  
sorter;

processing each check based on the data retrieved  
5 from the check in order to generate processing data for the  
check;

identifying a subset of the checks for imaging  
based on the processing data for each of the checks;

10 recording digital images of the identified  
checks;

obtaining the recorded digital images of the  
checks using TCP/IP; and

15 storing the obtained digital images of the checks  
in a database external to the sorter.

10. The method of Claim 9, obtaining the recorded  
digital images of the checks comprising receiving the  
recorded digital images of the checks from a digital  
camera.

20 11. The method of Claim 9, further comprising  
generating an image record for storage in the database, the  
image record comprising at least a portion of the  
processing data for a specified check and the digital image  
25 of the specified check.

12. The method of Claim 9, further comprising storing  
previous pass information for each check for which  
processing data was previously generated.

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13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising:  
determining whether processing data was  
previously generated for a specified check; and

obtaining at least a portion of the previous pass  
5 information for the specified check if processing data was  
previously generated for the specified check.

14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising  
generating an image record for storage in the database, the  
10 image record comprising at least a portion of the  
processing data for the specified check, the digital image  
of the specified check and, if processing data was  
previously generated for the specified check, at least a  
portion of the previous pass information for the specified  
15 check.

15. A system for imaging checks, comprising:  
logic stored on at least one computer-processable  
medium;

the logic operable to obtain digital images of a  
5 plurality of checks from a sorter using TCP/IP and to  
provide the obtained digital images of the checks to a  
database external to the sorter for storage.

16. The system of Claim 15, the logic further  
10 operable to obtain the digital images of the checks by  
receiving the digital images of the checks from a digital  
camera for the sorter.

17. The system of Claim 15, the logic further  
15 operable to generate an image record for storage in the  
database, the image record comprising processing data for  
a specified check and the digital image of the specified  
check.

18. The system of Claim 15, the logic further  
20 operable to receive processing data for each check and to  
receive previous pass information for each check for which  
processing data was previously generated.

19. The system of Claim 18, the logic further  
25 operable to determine whether processing data was  
previously generated for a specified check and to obtain at  
least a portion of the previous pass information for the  
specified check if processing data was previously generated  
30 for the specified check.

20. The system of Claim 19, the logic further operable to generate an image record for storage in the database, the image record comprising at least a portion of the processing data for the specified check, the digital  
5 image of the specified check and, if processing data was previously generated for the specified check, at least a portion of the previous pass information for the specified check.

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21. A system for storing and indexing a plurality of images of checks comprising a database, the database comprising a plurality of records, each record corresponding to an image of a check and comprising:

5           a front/back identifier field operable to identify whether the image comprises a front image or a back image of the check;

          a date field comprising a specified date for the check;

10           a sequence number field comprising a specified sequence number for the check; and

          a file format field operable to identify a file format for the image.

15           22. The system of Claim 21, the specified date comprising a processing date for the check.

20           23. The system of Claim 21, the specified date comprising a date on which the check was presented for payment.

25           24. The system of Claim 21, the specified date comprising a unique date corresponding to the check, the unique date comprising an original date stored in previous pass information for the check.

30           25. The system of Claim 21, the specified sequence number comprising a unique sequence number corresponding to the check, the unique sequence number comprising an original sequence number stored in previous pass information for the check.



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26. The system of Claim 21, the file format for the image comprising one of Moving Picture Experts Group, Joint Photographic Experts Group, and Tag Image File Format.

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